

CLAIM OR CLAIMS

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A circuit arrangement with which a communication that is subdivided into functional layers is processable by a first layer for a higher layer and/or by a higher layer for the first layer, the first layer being formed by a physical layer, comprising at least one port which allows a communication directly with a layer that is higher than the first layer without the communication previously having to pass through the first layer.

2. The circuit arrangement according to claim 1 wherein the functional layers correspond to an OSI reference model.

3. The circuit arrangement according to one of claims 1 or 2 wherein the communication comprises the step of inputting data into the at least one port and/or outputting data from the at least one port.

4. The circuit arrangement according to claim 3 wherein the processing of the communication is realized on a single chip, with the port being provided on the chip.

5. The circuit arrangement according to claim 3 wherein the processing of the communication is realized on a first chip and the port on a second chip, the first and second chips being linked with each other for data transfer.

6. A method for testing a switch for a telecommunication network comprising the steps of:

providing the switch with a circuit arrangement with which a communication that is subdivided into functional layers is processable by a first layer for a higher layer and/or by a higher layer for the first layer, the first layer being formed by a physical layer and the circuit arrangement featuring at least one port which allows a communication directly with a layer that is higher than the first layer without the communication previously having to pass through the first layer;

outputting data from the at least one port; and
analyzing of the output data.

7. The method according to claim 7 further comprising the step of inputting the data into the at least one port before the outputting step.

8. The method according to one of claims 7 or 8 wherein the input data comprise a stimulation signal.

9. The method according to claim 9 wherein the output data comprise a response to the stimulation signal.

10. The method according to claim 9 wherein the output data comprise a monitoring signal.